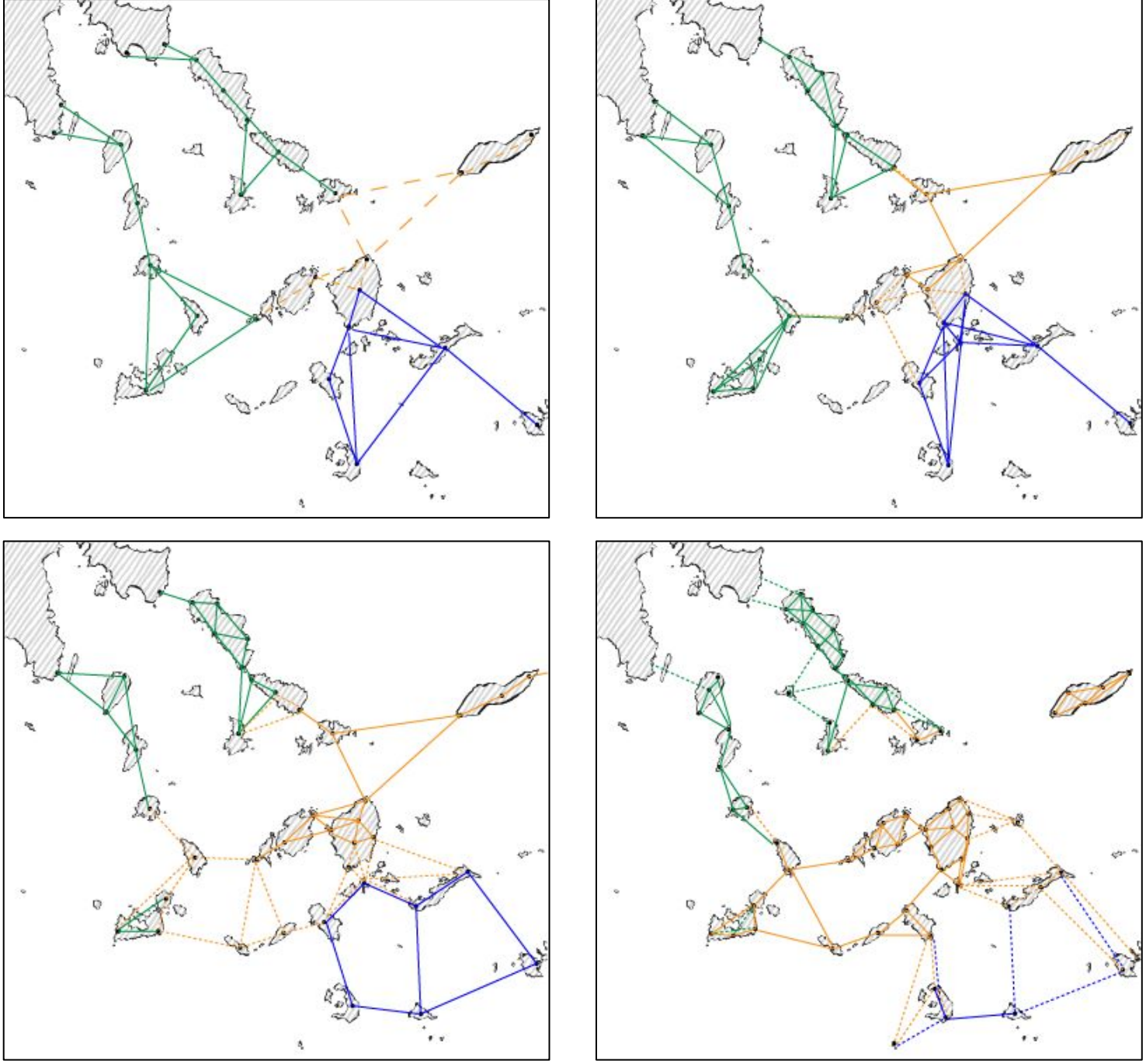

Fig. 4: Broodbank's Proximal Point Analysis, Modified.

This is the modified PPA model created to simulate cultural diffusion within island networks. I know this falls far outside the bounds of the assignment, but since it is something I relied on and referenced in the paper, it is included here. The purpose is to model that the land configuration of the Cyclades not only encourages certain networks to form, but that the potential avenues of cultural exchange can be predicted.

The colored nodes behave in consistent ways. In PPA1, orange represents potential theatres of contact in the earlier phases of Neolithic colonization. Green-to-Blue connections are not made if distance exceeds 20km canoe distance. Connections that can be made are represented by orange, which follows certain rules. Icaria is included for Broodbank's reasons, to not impose arbitrary borders. However, Fig. 1 does show Samos acting as a favorable axis of entry, but since archaeological data is limited, the results obtained regarding this island are rather arbitrary.

In PPA 2/3/4, orange follows these basic rules: a dotted line in previous PPA becomes solid in the next. Connections made from the new node are dotted orange lines to simulate a "chain reaction" of diffusion. They are allowed to form two dotted lines from their original solid-colored node. If the number of dotted orange lines outnumbers a node in contrast to its Green or Blue solid connections, then the node in the next PPA will follow orange rules in the next model. This modification is crucial as it emphasizes the role of landmass configuration which is the main purpose of the PPA.

What is suggested by this is that the distribution of this cultural exchange was asymmetrical. By PPA4, it appears that the northwest islands, possibly due to their very configuration, remain tied to one another and the mainland in ways that Erimonisia/Naxos are not, the latter being separated from their preceding islands by a much wider sea distance. The epicenter of the ECII culture, which I argued was a synthesis in the interaction of these two groups, takes place within this Erimonisia/Naxos nucleus which still deeply permeated the NW islands.